

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (Original):** An image processing apparatus that generates one still image having a high pixel density from multiple images, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an image extraction module that extracts the multiple images used for generation of the one still image;

a deviation computation module that computes a degree of deviation between each combination of the extracted multiple images;

an image selection module that selects at least two images among the extracted multiple images, based on the computed degrees of deviation; and

an image composition module that combines the at least two selected images to generate the one still image.

**Claim 2 (Original):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said image extraction module has a specification module that specifies a reference image as a base of composition of the one still image, and

said image extraction module extracts the multiple images in a correlated order with the specified reference image.

**Claim 3 (Original):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein the multiple images are consecutively arranged in time series, and

the correlated order is a time series order from the specified reference image.

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 3, said image processing apparatus further comprising:

an image composition number display module that displays number of images used for image composition, prior to generation of the one still image.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 4, said image processing apparatus further comprising:

an alarm module that gives an alarm when number of the at least two selected images does not reach a preset minimal number.

**Claim 6 Currently Amended:** An image processing apparatus in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 5, said image processing apparatus further comprising:

an execution selection module that selects either execution or non-execution of the image composition when number of the at least two selected images does not reach a preset minimal number.

**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 6, said image processing apparatus further comprising:

a discontinuation module that discontinues the image composition when number of the at least two selected images does not reach a preset minimal number.

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 7, wherein said image selection module has an exclusion module that excludes any image having the computed degree of deviation out of a preset threshold range from the extracted multiple images, and

said image selection module selects images other than the image excluded by said exclusion module as the at least two images.

**Claim 9 (Original):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the computed degree of deviation is at least either of a translational deviation between two images in a translational direction and a rotational deviation between the two images in a rotational direction, and

said exclusion module excludes any image having at least either of the translational deviation and the rotational deviation out of the preset threshold range.

**Claim 10 (Original):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 9, wherein the preset threshold range is expressed by a number of pixels set as a rate to a total number of pixels constituting the one still image.

**Claim 11 (Original):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 9, wherein the preset threshold range of the translational deviation is  $\pm 16$  pixels and the preset threshold range of the rotational deviation is  $\pm 1^\circ$ .

**Claim 12 (Currently Amended):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 11, wherein the multiple images are multiple frame images included in a moving image.

**Claim 13 (Currently Amended):** An image processing apparatus in accordance with ~~any one of claims~~ claim 8 through 11, wherein the multiple images are multiple still images having information of an exposure time, which varies according to lightness of a photographic subject at a shooting time,

    said image processing apparatus further comprising:

        a threshold setting module that sets the threshold range for each still image, based on the varying exposure time.

**Claim 14 (Original):** An image processing method that generates one still image having a high pixel density from multiple images, said image processing method comprising the steps of:

- extracting the multiple images used for generation of the one still image;
- computing a degree of deviation between each combination of the extracted multiple images;
- selecting at least two images among the extracted multiple images, based on the computed degrees of deviation; and
- combining the at least two selected images to generate the one still image.

**Claim 15 (Original):** An image processing method in accordance with claim 14, said image processing method further comprising the step of:

- discontinuing the image composition when number of the at least two selected images does not reach a preset minimal number.

**Claim 16 (Original):** An image processing apparatus that generates one still image having a high pixel density from multiple images, said image processing apparatus comprising:

- an extraction unit that extracts the multiple images used for generation of the one still image;
- an operator that computes a degree of deviation between each combination of the extracted multiple images, based on data of the multiple images;
- a selector that selects at least two images among the extracted multiple images, based on the computed degrees of deviation; and
- an image composition unit that combines the at least two selected images to generate the one still image.

**Claim 17 (Original):** A computer program product for generating one still image having a high pixel density from multiple images, said computer program product comprising a program code that is executed by a computer and a recording medium that records the program code so as to be read by the computer, wherein the program code includes:

- a first program code of extracting the multiple images used for generation of the one still image;
- a second program code of computing a degree of deviation between each combination of the extracted multiple images;
- a third program code of selecting at least two images among the extracted multiple images, based on the computed degrees of deviation;
- a fourth program code of combining the at least two selected images to generate the one still image; and
- a recording medium that stores said first to fourth program codes.